

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1857.

The Honorable William L. Lee died at his residence in Honolulu at about the hour of 2 o'clock on Thursday morning, the 28th instant. The name of the late Chief Justice is so inseparably connected with the history of these Islands for the last ten or eleven years that it would prove a difficult task to point to any important measure of the Government or any worthy social effort in which he did not take a part. Wherever the Sandwich Islands are known Mr. Lee has been heard of as a pillar of the State, and through his efforts rather than those of any other individual, and the honest tendency of his public acts, the Government has acquired a reputation and prestige which give it strength beyond its proportions. In undertaking to reduce the Judiciary Department to order and put our courts of law into a position to command respect he succeeded well indeed; and the principal tribunal, over which he presided, acquired such a name for wisdom combined with probity not to be questioned, that parties often left their cases with the Court as an umpire of their own choice. In one word, on whatever there is of progress, and whatever there is of order observable throughout the length and breadth of this archipelago, it may be said that more or less conspicuously the mark of Mr. Lee's hand is seen. His associates in the public service,—and he was during his career brought into relations with almost every officer of the Government, from the highest to the lowest—will acknowledge the value they attached to his judgment, the soundness of his reasoning, and the facility he possessed of rapidly unrobing a subject of its difficulties and laying bare its very heart.

Mr. Lee was born at Sandy Hill, Washington County, in the State of New York, on the 25th of February, 1821. He was therefore at the time of his death only thirty-six years old, another instance of how much may be accomplished by patient industry, even during a short life. At a period of existence when many public men are only coming upon the stage, Mr. Lee has gone to rest from his labors. At the age of thirteen he entered the Norwich University in the State of Vermont, where he remained two years, at the end of which time he left the institution and engaged in the business of a Civil Engineer in the service of his native State. In this profession he rose so rapidly that at the end of only three years he left it, having already filled the post of Resident Engineer. He next returned to Norwich University, where he graduated at the age of twenty, taking the first honors.

On leaving the University the subject of this notice received the appointment of Superintendent of the Military Academy at Portsmouth, Virginia, in which position he remained one year. Having at this time of his maturity decided upon adopting the law as his permanent profession he entered Harvard University, where he remained till he had finished the course of study under those eminent jurists Judge Story and Professor Greenleaf. Whilst he was about to establish himself as a practitioner he was attacked with a violent hemorrhage of the lungs, and his case was for some months considered to be a hopeless one, but a naturally strong constitution triumphed over the disease, and in the year 1844 he was able to commence the practice of law in the city of Troy, New York. Here he remained only a short time before the recurrence of pulmonary symptoms warned him to seek a more genial climate. At that time the public attention was strongly directed towards the new Territory of Oregon, which was supposed to offer unusual advantages to settlers as well in the salubrity of its climate as the fertility of its soil and its prospect of a speedy growth. Deciding then to cast his fortunes in that young country, Mr. Lee embarked with a company of fourteen besides himself on board the brig *Henry*, bound for Columbia River by way of the Sandwich Islands, and after a tempestuous voyage of about eight months arrived at Honolulu on the 12th of October, 1846.

Through the influence of John Ricord, Esq., and others, Mr. Lee was invited by his late Majesty and the Chiefs to take up his abode here, and accept

the office of Presiding Judge of the old Court of Oahu. As a more particular allusion to his many subsequent labors cannot be out of place here, we will state that after the passage of the "Act to organize the Judiciary," in 1847, Mr. Lee was appointed Chief Justice of the late Superior Court of Law and Equity, and upon the re-organization of the judiciary, consequent upon the adoption of the new Constitution of 1852, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Chancellor of the Kingdom, which office he held up to the time of his death. The duties of his judicial station have always been of an onerous nature, and quite sufficient to have occupied the entire time and attention of any ordinary man. But Mr. Lee was not an ordinary man. His natural abilities were great, and his industry indefatigable. Upon the death of the late Mr. Richards he was appointed President of the Board of Land Commissioners, and continued to preside over that body until the final close of its labors in 1855. Owing to his energy and perseverance the business of settling land claims was pressed forward under his management with the greatest rapidity that the facilities at the disposal of the Board would ensure.

From the time of Mr. Lee's arrival here until he became too ill to take an active part in the transaction of public business, he was a laborious member of the Privy Council, where his honesty of purpose, independence of character and sound judgment, justly gained him great weight and influence. When, in 1855, he resolved to visit the United States for the benefit of his health, his Majesty appointed him Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington, in which capacity he negotiated with the Cabinet of President Pierce a treaty of commercial reciprocity, which was calculated to have given a great impulse to our agriculture and commerce had it been sanctioned by the Senate of the United States.

Mr. Lee was Speaker of the House of Representatives during the session of 1851, at the close of which he was appointed as one of three Commissioners charged with the duty of framing a new Constitution, the original draft of which was prepared by him for submission to the King and the Legislative Body. The Penal Code, and many of the most important laws to be found upon our statute books subsequent to the year 1847, were drawn up by him; and he was one of three Commissioners appointed in 1856 to revise the existing laws and prepare an entire Civil Code. During last summer, while the guest of the Hon. R. Moffitt, at Kahuku, Judge Lee, with the assistance of Judge Robertson, was engaged upon the last named work, which, on account of his subsequent severe illness, still remains unfinished.

Up to the time of his visit to the United States he had, in addition to his other duties, to maintain an extensive correspondence with persons, both foreigners and natives, resident in other parts of the kingdom; with the latter he corresponded in their own language, in which, amidst all his cares, he succeeded in acquiring a fair degree of proficiency.

Mr. Lee took a lively interest in all the public institutions and benevolent associations of the day, of most of which he was an ever-ready and efficient member. For several years he was President of the Royal Hawaiian Agricultural Society, for whose success and usefulness he labored with great zeal.

Such are some of the services rendered to the Hawaiian nation by this eminent man, whose death, at the early age of thirty-six, will be sincerely deplored by this entire people, high and low, foreign and native, from Hilo to Niihau.

Mr. Lee married in 1849, Kate E. Newton, of Albany, State of New York, but leaves no issue.

ORDER OF PROCESSION

OF THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE

HONORABLE W. M. L. LEE.

The Funeral Services of the late Honorable W. L. Lee, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Chancellor of the Kingdom, will take place on Sunday, the 31st inst., at 4 o'clock P. M., at the Stone Church; at which time and place the friends of the deceased and the public generally are invited to attend.

After the services the body will be conveyed to the Royal Cemetery (where it will be deposited

previous to its removal to the United States) in the following order of procession.

OFFICIATING CLERGYMEN.

ATTENDING PHYSICIANS.

CLERGYMEN OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.

JUDGES OF THE SEVERAL COURTS.

CLERKS OF THE SEVERAL COURTS.

MEMBERS OF THE BAR.

PALL BEARERS.



PALL BEARERS.

CHIEF MOURNERS.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

PRIVY COUNCILLORS.

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES, CONSULS, AND OFFICERS OF FOREIGN VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

THE CITIZENS GENERALLY.

On Tuesday last, a very beautifully bound copy of the Bible was presented to the King in the name of the American Bible Society. Similar presentation copies will be given to all the Potentates and Powers. It is a beautiful specimen of typography, and the book is enclosed in a rose-wood case. The King on the occasion referred to was waited on by the American Missionaries, among whom Mr. S. N. Castle was selected to address him, which he did as follows:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY: By the request of the Secretary of the American Bible Society, I have the honor and the pleasure of presenting to your Majesty a copy of the Holy Scriptures, the gift of that noble institution, together with a letter in its behalf from its revered and honored Secretary.

This Society is not altogether unknown to your Majesty. It is an honored member of the great family of benevolent societies, whose object is to give the Gospel to the whole race of man. The special mission of this institution, in co-operation with other kindred societies, is to carry the Word of God to every nation and people in its own tongue, that all may be partakers of its blessings.

The British and Foreign Bible Society may be said to stand at the head of this noble class of institutions. Since its formation, the Scriptures have been translated into one hundred and forty-eight languages and dialects, one hundred and twenty-one of which were previously unknown, and twenty-five had existed without an alphabet; and more than forty-three millions of copies have been circulated amongst not less than six hundred millions of people.

The errand of these societies is one of peace and good will to men. Bound, indeed, to universal conquest, the triumph of the Bible is not that of arms. Unlike the progress of earthly conquerors, its onward march is heralded by no confused noise of trampling and prancing of horses, no roar of artillery, no clangor of arms, no groans of the wounded and dying, no garments of warriors rolled in blood; but it comes noiselessly, winning its way to the heart. Its triumph is the triumph of love.

The Bible is the harbinger of civil and social blessings. Its teachings, received and obeyed, bring joy and gladness into the family, the community, the body politic. It makes good husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends, kings and subjects. It is adapted to all classes—the high and low, the rich and poor, the learned and unlearned, the king on his throne and the peasant in his cottage. It comes with blessings to all. Darkness, before it, brightens into day. Civil and religious despotism flee its approach, for it bears upon its pages the rich treasures of civil and religious liberty. It teaches that rulers must be just, ruling in the fear of God; and the reciprocal duty of obedience to righteous and just laws upon the part of the ruled. Of its power to bless and renovate, your Majesty has ocular demonstration in the condition of your own people. Scarcely has a generation passed away since the first glimmering of its beams fell upon these Isles, shrouded in the long night of ages. What were they then? Barbarous, benighted, without any knowledge of the true God, without schools, or books, or churches; with a despotic Government and priesthood, with whose bloody rites mingled, at times, the cries of human victims with gods upon whose altars flowed their blood. What are they now? Barbarism and darkness have fled away. The true God is known and worshipped; schools, and books, and churches, fill the land. Upon their altars smoke no bloody sacrifices, but from them ascends the grateful incense of prayer and praise to Him who has proclaimed peace and good will to men. A constitutional government and just laws have arisen for the mutual benefit of King and people. How great the change! In vain shall we scan the pages of history to find its parallel, in the brief period of time which has elapsed during its progress.

What has produced this change? I answer, the Bible. Yes, the Bible given to this people by the American Bible Society; and I digress to say that we have with us to-day, one of the honored surviving patriarchs who has seen it all; yea, more, has aided through it all; nor would I forget those female helpers, who, thirty-eight years ago, in the vigor of youth, embarked in an untried, and what was then by many regarded as a hopeless enterprise, who forsook the

endearments of home and civilization, and with a moral courage not inferior to that physical courage displayed on the fields of Inkerman and Balaklava, dared the dangers of a vast ocean, which no civilized female had traversed before, that they might do good to their race. Venerable men and women, we will rejoice with you in the reward you are receiving to-day. Pardon this digression, for it seemed in harmony with the subject to refer to those who had been largely instrumental in producing this change.

But whilst such are the blessings which flow from the Bible, it also says that sin is a reproach to any people, and the nation and kingdom that will not serve the Lord shall perish. It has temporal blessings and temporal judgments. It brings life and immortality to light. It reveals the only Savior who can deliver from the wrath to come. It opens up the only pathway of our fallen race to the rest of the heavenly Jerusalem. To those who embrace and obey it, its blessings are unspeakable. To those who reject it, its denunciations are fearful.

Such, Sire, is the book which, in the name and on behalf of the American Bible Society, I have the honor of presenting to your Majesty to-day; and permit me to add the assurance of the earnest prayers of the donors, as well as of every Christian heart, that it may be received as your guide; that, practising its precepts in the administration of your Government as well as private life, you may escape its denunciations and participate in its blessings, both in this life and that which is to come.

HIS MAJESTY'S REPLY.

The volume you present me in behalf of the American Bible Society, and the letter with which it is accompanied, I receive with a mingled feeling of pleasure and reverence. When I remember the moral illumination and the sense of social propriety which have spread throughout these islands, in proportion as the Holy Scriptures have been circulated, I cannot but admire and respect the human agency through which Providence has effected its benign purpose. But of all the members of the institution, there is none with whom I could more gladly find myself in communication than the Secretary, whose labors have won for him a name among Christian philanthropists which might excite a world to emulation.

I will not attempt to echo the tone of fervent admiration and gratitude with which you allude to the happy changes effected by the dissemination of God's Holy Word. But from the position I occupy, the facts meet me whichever way I turn my eyes. I see them every day and every hour. I see principles taking root among my people that were unknown and unintelligible to them at that dark period of our religious history to which you have referred. They have now a standard by which to judge of themselves and of each other as members of society. Without that standard no law but the law of autocratic power could have ruled them. Its absence would have rendered the gift of free institutions, such as they now enjoy, a worse than useless act of magnanimity on the part of my predecessors. The commerce and intercourse with other countries to which we owe our present prosperity would have been checked by numberless difficulties. In one word, we see through all our relations the effect of those aspirations and principles inculcated by this sacred volume.

I should be wanting to myself did I not express the gratification I feel at seeing here present some of those who were the first to labor in the vineyard. Although they look for their reward elsewhere, they will not reject my passing tribute of respect. Their labor has been long and their anxiety great, but their constancy and patience have equalled the emergency. The result of their life's work may even disappoint them if they judge it by the anticipation of their more sanguine years. Yet, in their decline of life, they see some of the fruits they prayed for, and they will not complain when they remember that the measure of their success is from above.

Allow me to thank you for your personal share in the presentation, and through you to express my kindest acknowledgments to the American Bible Society.

Anniversary Week.

New York has its Anniversary Week, when people gather from all parts of the country to attend the annual meetings of the various religious societies, and Honolulu, gradually falling into the fashions, good as well as bad, which pertain to the metropolis of an enlightened nation, has its anniversary week also. During the week just past, the different religious societies of *Hawaii Nei* have had their annual meetings in this city, and the various reports will, we presume, be soon printed and laid before the public. Missionaries from every station on the islands were present, and among them we were pleased to see in good health, the venerable Rev. A. Thurston, of Kailua, where he was stationed on his arrival here in 1820, one of the first company of Missionaries that left the United States for these Islands, and where he has ever since remained, never having once left the Islands during a period of thirty-seven years.

Grapes.

We notice this delicious fruit beginning to make its appearance for sale about the streets. Lahaina is the principal grape-growing spot on the islands, and we learn that the product will this year be unusually abundant. In fact all kinds of fruit and produce bids fair to exceed the crops of former years, under the genial influence of an unusually rainy spring.

Respect to the Memory of Judge Lee.

On the announcement, on Thursday morning last, of the death of the Chief Justice, all the consular and other flags in town were displayed at half-mast, and many of the principal stores were closed.

Funeral Sermon.

A Sermon on the occasion of Judge Lee's death will be delivered to-morrow evening, at the Bethel, by the Rev. S. C. Damon.